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## California Department of Health Services Toxic Substances Control Program

### FACT SHEET

#### *Palos Verdes Landfill Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study*

May, 1990

#### INTRODUCTION

The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) are conducting a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study at the Palos Verdes Landfill. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) is providing oversight and activity review of the study. The purpose of the study is to investigate, identify and remediate any potential migration of hazardous materials from the Palos Verdes Landfill in Rolling Hills Estates, CA. This fact sheet provides information on the history of the site and the investigation.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Sanitation Districts and DHS encourage the community to take an active interest in the issues that affect the remediation effort. A Community Relations Plan (CRP) and various technical reports are available for public viewing at the locations listed below. In addition, the Sanitation Districts will keep the local communities informed with periodic project newsletters to be sent to all homes and businesses in the area.

Prior to the commencement of field activities, the DHS, in cooperation with the Sanitation Districts, will hold a community wide public meeting. The meeting will allow the DHS and the Sanitation Districts to further explain their roles in the RI/FS project and will allow the public to raise any comments or questions they may have.

The community meeting will be held on May 30, 1990 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM at the following location:

South Coast Botanic Gardens  
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

#### SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The 291-acre inactive landfill is located at 25706 Hawthorne Blvd. in Rolling Hills Estates. A diatomite mine was operated on the site from the early 1900's to the 1950's. BKK Corporation then operated a landfill on the site from 1952 to 1957. The Sanitation Districts operated the landfill from May 1957 until it reached final design capacity and ceased accepting refuse in December, 1980. A public recreation facility currently is proposed for the property.

Landfill operations initially began at Parcel 1 (see map) and later expanded to include Parcels 2, 3, 5 and 6 (known as the Main Site) and Parcel 4. Parcel 1, closed in 1965, is now the site of the South Coast Botanic Garden. Parcel 4, closed in 1979, is now the site of Ernie Howlett Park.

During its lifetime, the landfill received approximately 23.6 million tons of solid and liquid waste. Parcels 1 and 4 received nonhazardous and inert solid wastes. Three to four percent of the waste disposed at the Main Site was hazardous. The types of hazardous wastes accepted primarily include: acid wastes, solvents, alkaline wastes, tetraethyl lead sludges, chemical toilet wastes, hazardous tank bottoms, oily wastes, contaminated soil, brine, pesticides, and refinery wastes. The majority of the hazardous wastes accepted at the site were comprised of wastes from local refineries, crude oil unloading terminals, and oil fields.

During its active and post-closure life, several environmental control systems have been installed at the PVLF. These consist of:

- 1) a groundwater monitoring well network consisting of 51 wells that are sampled and analyzed quarterly,
- 2) a subsurface barrier system which is designed to contain groundwater onsite and permit its extraction, and
- 3) a system of 445 landfill gas extraction wells and 2300 feet of landfill gas collection trenches that extract landfill gas from the refuse and pipe it to a landfill gas powered electrical generation station (see map for location).

These environmental control systems help to minimize the potential impacts of the landfill on the surrounding environment.

**SITE CONTAMINATION**

In 1985, a localized area of contaminated ground water was discovered onsite in the northwest corner of the Main Site (see map). Analyses of the water indicated it contained some volatile organic compounds. The presence of the contamination resulted in the expedited construction of a subsurface barrier system which had been proposed in the site closure report. The barrier system is designed to contain and remove the contaminated groundwater.

The Sanitation Districts installed 23 new groundwater monitoring wells in 1987. This expanded monitoring well network, proposed in the site closure report, was designed to further characterize the hydrogeology of the site. Water quality data from these wells do not indicate movement of the plume of contaminated groundwater.

**REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION**

The Sanitation Districts will begin the field work for a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) of the landfill in Summer, 1990. DHS will monitor and approve the RI/FS project activities, which will determine the full nature and extent of any contamination, identify any migration of contaminants, and evaluate various remedial alternatives. The Sanitation Districts will then implement the most appropriate remedial alternative. Remedial alternatives could range from the continuation of present monitoring programs to the installation of remedial facilities.

The Remedial Investigation will focus on four potential contaminant migration pathways; air, groundwater, soil, and rainwater runoff. Field investigations will involve the drilling of at least 39 exploratory borings (see map for locations) and the collection of air, landfill gas, soil, groundwater, and

rainwater runoff samples for analysis (see inset). The data from these investigations in addition to the Sanitation Districts' existing database will be used to determine the extent of any potential offsite migration of contaminants. Data from the Remedial Investigation will be used in the Feasibility Study which will identify remedial alternatives.

**FIELD ACTIVITIES**

Residents may wonder what type of field activities they may expect to see in their communities. The most visible field activity is the drilling of exploratory borings. Residents will see drilling equipment which will cause some street blockages at the locations shown on the map. However, the Sanitation Districts have set restricted operating hours for such activities to minimize any inconvenience to local residents. Most of the other field activities involve onsite sampling of air, groundwater, soil, and rainfall runoff and therefore will not be visible to the local community. Constant monitoring of operating conditions will minimize any threat to the health and safety of the community.

The RI/FS is expected to take at least 30-36 months to complete. The Sanitation Districts will then prepare a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) that will summarize the results of the RI/FS and discuss the selection of the chosen remedial alternative. The public will have 30 days to comment on the draft RAP. After responding to public comments the Sanitation Districts will make any needed changes. DHS will approve the final RAP. The Sanitation Districts will then proceed with design and implementation of any required remediation under DHS supervision. A schedule of activities is provided in Table 1. The schedule will be updated as the project proceeds.

**TABLE 1: RI/FS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>SCHEDULED COMPLETION DATE</u>
RI/FS Detailed Workplan Development	February, 1990
Implementation of Workplan Components	December, 1992
Feasibility Study	June, 1993
Remedial Action Plan Development	January, 1994
Implementation of Remedial Action Plan	June, 1996

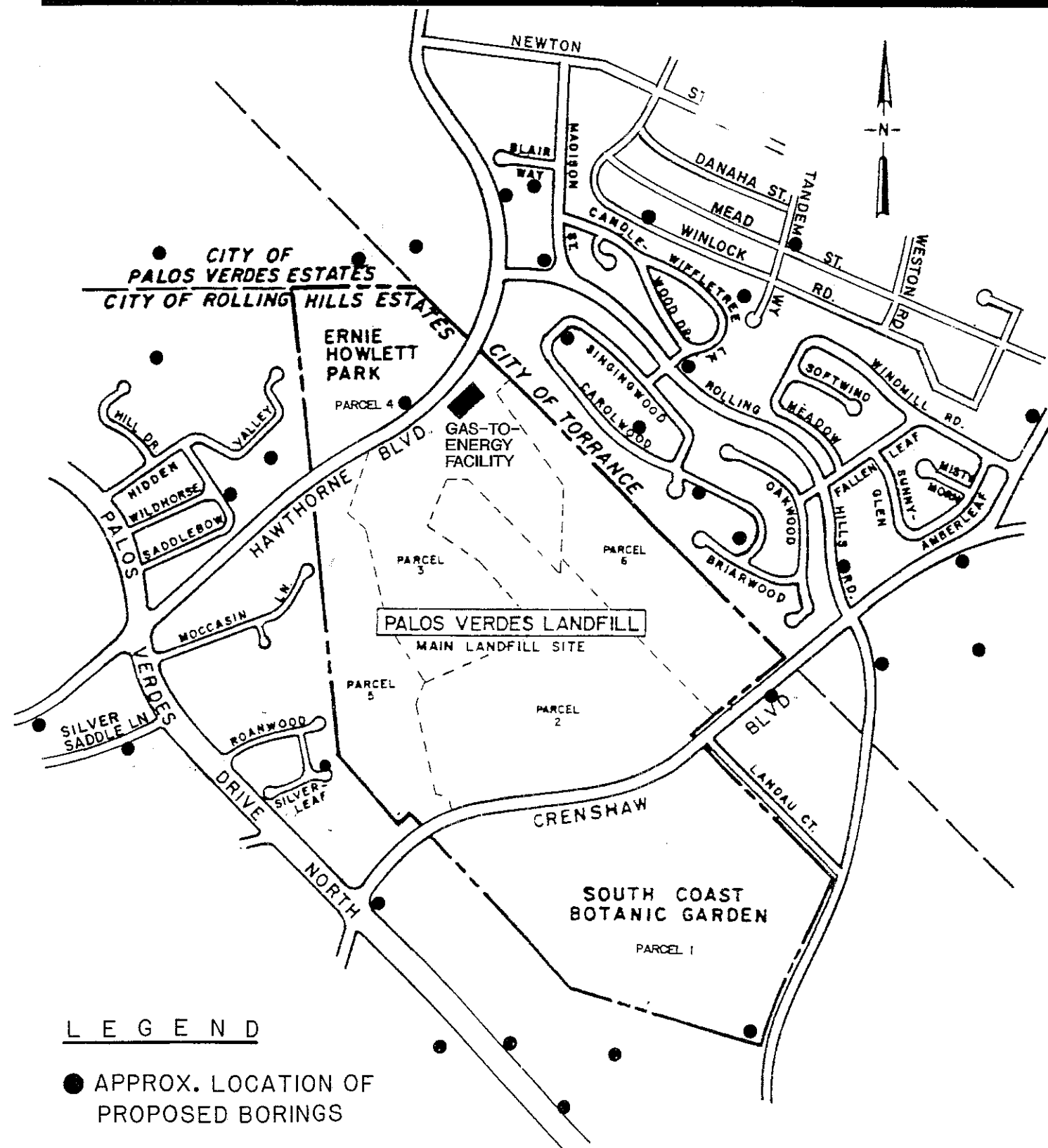
**INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

The following locations will store copies of all the workplans and reports generated throughout the life of the project.

Peninsula Center Library / (213) 377-9584 650 Deep Valley Drive Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274	Torrance Civic Center Library / (213) 618-5959 3301 Torrance Boulevard Torrance, CA 90503
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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES CONTACTS**

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## PALOS VERDES LANDFILL

NO SCALE